



CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814
<http://calfed.ca.gov>
Public Information Line (916) 654-9924
(800) 700-5752

(916) 657-2666
FAX (916) 654-9780

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CONTACT: Valerie Holcomb
(916) 654-7137

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

SACRAMENTO – The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will hold a public workshop in Red Bluff on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the Elks Lodge, 355 Gilmore Road. The workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m. Area residents are encouraged to attend and learn about the CALFED proposal to improve water management and restore ecological health to the Bay-Delta system.

On Dec. 18, 1998, CALFED released its Revised Phase II Report outlining a draft preferred alternative for the Bay-Delta. The draft alternative focuses on strategies for resolving four problem areas – water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem health, and levee system integrity. The proposed draft alternative relies on eight program elements to implement these strategies: water use efficiency, water transfers, water quality, levee protection, watershed management, ecosystem restoration, storage and conveyance.

The workshop will feature a presentation by CALFED staff about the draft plan, followed by a question-and-answer period. The report is available by calling 800-700-5752 or from the CALFED web site, <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

Public input is critical to the success of the CALFED Program. "This report represents significant progress towards finding solutions for the Bay-Delta system," said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Program. "But we have a lot of work ahead of us, and we need the continued participation and input from the public."

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and California's environmental, urban and agricultural communities. It was initiated in 1995 by Gov. Pete Wilson and the Clinton Administration to address environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the watershed that feeds them.

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CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

For decades, the system has struggled to meet the competing demands of the environment and water users, while maintaining good water quality and a levee system that protects local towns and infrastructure from flooding and contaminating the state's water supply. Today, the system is not adequately meeting any of these needs.

In March 1998, CALFED released a draft programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) identifying three possible solutions. Comments and input from the public, and technical studies and continued analyses by the CALFED staff, stakeholders and state and federal agencies led to the development of the draft proposal in the Revised Phase II Report.

The Bay-Delta is critically important to California's natural environment and economy. It supplies drinking water for two-thirds of the people in California, and irrigation water for more than 7 million acres of the farmland. It also supports more than 750 plant and animal species, some found nowhere else on the planet.

For further information about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, call 1-800-700-5752 or visit the web site, <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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